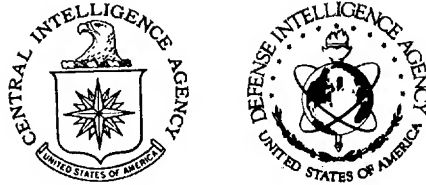


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NSA review completed



Fifteenth Report

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

**(This report covers the week from
25 May through 31 May 1973)**

*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

DIA Review Completed.

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Fifteenth Report

COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS*

(This report covers the week from
25 May through 31 May 1973)

The Key Points

- Infiltration of North Vietnamese combat replacement troops to the northern provinces of GVN MR 1 continued during the week.
- With the rainy season now intensifying, North Vietnamese logistical activity in southern Laos and Cambodia diminished further. There is still heavy NVA logistic movement, however, in southern North Vietnam and northern South Vietnam.
- Combat activity in violation of the settlement agreements was at a low level in both South Vietnam and Laos.

* This report has been prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense.

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The Details

NOTE: This is the Fifteenth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.

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A. Infiltration and Redeployments of North Vietnamese Personnel

1. During the past week we received evidence confirming the southward movement of two regular North Vietnamese combat infiltration groups which were carried in our estimates last week on the basis of less definitive evidence. In the past three weeks, following a hiatus of about two months in combat infiltration, we have now detected nine new combat infiltration groups totalling almost 5,000 replacement troops. All are headed toward the northern provinces of GVN MR 1. Several smaller groups of North Vietnamese civil or military specialists were also detected starting the trip south during the week.

2. We now estimate that some 24,500 North Vietnamese personnel have entered the infiltration pipeline since 27 January. Total infiltration since the ceasefire is nearly 50,000 including 25,000 who were already in the pipeline and already traveling south on 27 January. (ANNEX II, [redacted] contains a more detailed discussion of the information on infiltration which was received during the past week.)

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3. Since the beginning of 1973, there have been indications at one time or another that parts

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or all of four NVA infantry divisions -- the 304th, 308th, 312th, and 320B -- were in the process of withdrawing from South Vietnam's Quang Tri Province. Elements of all four of these divisions were reported either in the North Vietnamese panhandle or in garrison areas farther north in North Vietnam. Further analysis, however, indicates that only one of these divisions, the 308th, has definitely withdrawn all its elements from South Vietnam. Reports continue to be received that units of both the 304th and 320B Divisions are operating and receiving air defense support in Quang Tri Province, and there is no evidence that the regiments of the 312th Division withdrew to North Vietnam with its headquarters in April. Elements of all three of these remaining divisions probably are continuing to operate in Quang Tri Province while other divisional elements are returning temporarily to the panhandle of North Vietnam for routine rest and refitting.

4. During the period from late April to mid-May, the headquarters of the NVA 377th Air Defense Division moved from Quang Tri Province in South Vietnam to the Tchepone area of southern Laos. This headquarters -- which was previously responsible for all Communist air defense operations in Quang Tri -- has been replaced in that role by a newly formed division-level headquarters, the 673rd. This new entity took command of the former subordinate support units of the 377th, all of which remained in Quang Tri Province when the 377th headquarters itself moved to Laos. The move of the 377th headquarters to southern Laos was probably undertaken to provide improved command and control over the six Air Defense Command AAA Regiments now deployed in that area.

B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies
Toward and Into South Vietnam and Laos.

5. NVA logistic activity in southern Laos continues to decline as the rainy season advances over the area. There is still considerable traffic on the north-south routes in the central part of the Laotian Panhandle, but the level is well below



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that of late April. (Moreover, a significant north-bound bias has been evident during the past week.) In contrast, high levels of resupply activity are continuing in northern South Vietnam where large quantities of munitions are being moved and heavy vehicle traffic continues. Farther north, substantial logistic flows also continue through Vinh and the southern part of the North Vietnamese Pan-handle.

6. The following instances of Communist logistic activity were observed in South Vietnam during the period. Activity observed in South Vietnam probably reflects supplies which have recently entered the country. (The map on the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

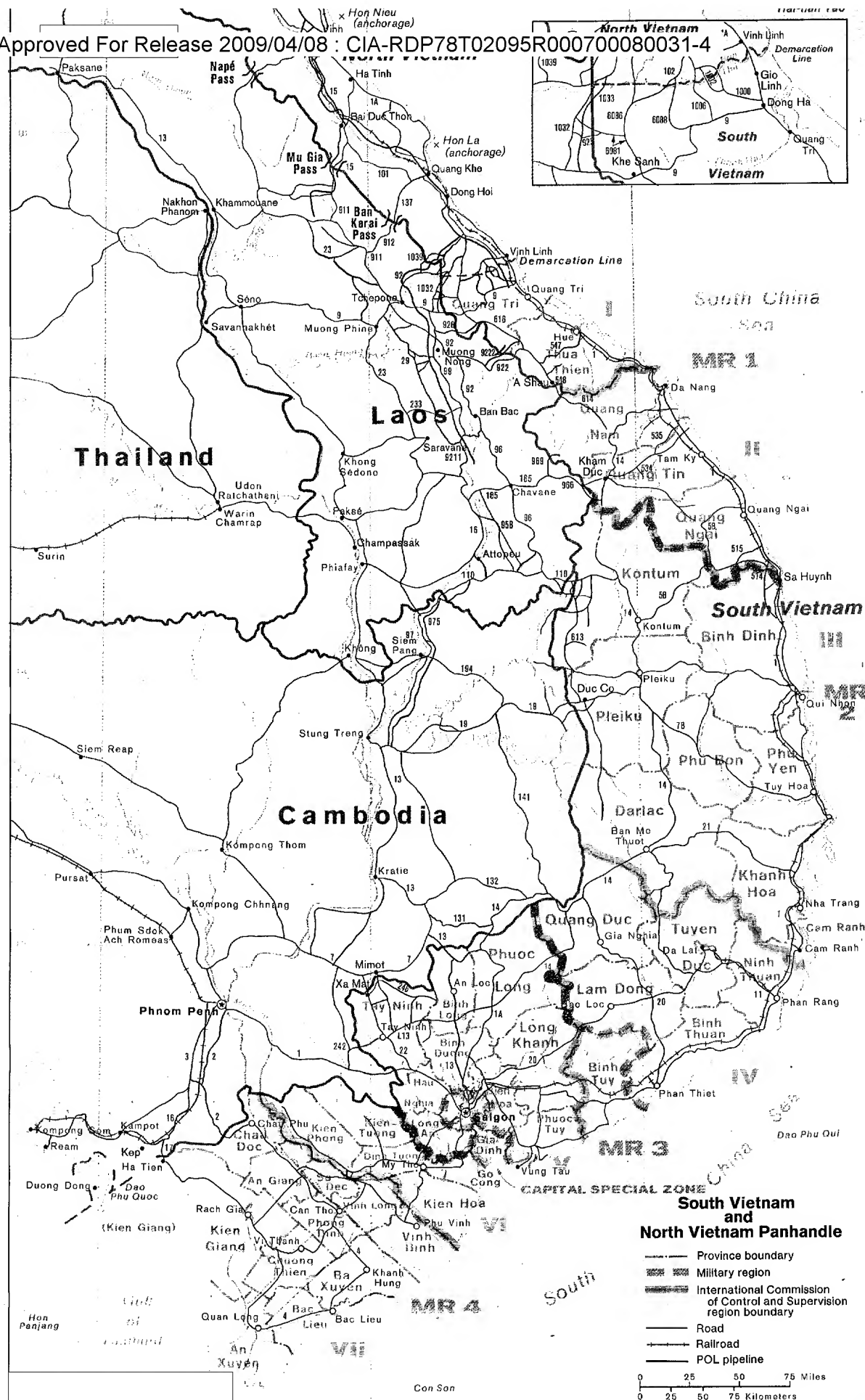
- a) An NVA logistic unit operating in the Cua Viet river area of northeastern Quang Tri Province had 5,000 vehicles transit its area during the period 17 to 23 May, a weekly total comparable to that noted in early May. This week's total included 2,300 supply trucks, the remainder being troop transports and jeeps.
- b) On 24 May, an NVA logistic unit which operates in the Laos/GVN MR-1 border area had over 500 tons of munitions moving through its area, and over 2,400 tons of munitions in storage. The next day the unit had 4 south-bound and 78 northbound cargo vehicles traveling through its area.
- c)  68 cargo trucks were observed on Route 9 between Dong Ha and the Laos/South Vietnam border (70 eastbound, 74 westbound, 24 parked).
- d)  47 cargo vehicles were seen on Route 9 between Dong Ha and the Laos/South Vietnam border (20 eastbound, 12 westbound, 15 parked).

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- e) [] 26 cargo vehicles were noted on Route 1 north of Dong Ha (23 northbound, 3 southbound).

7. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in southern Laos were noted. Historical precedent would suggest that much of this activity probably involved supplies destined for South Vietnam.

- a) The table below lists observed NVA vehicle activity on selected routes in the Laos Panhandle during the reporting period.*

<u>Route 99</u>	<u>Route 9211</u>	<u>Route 958</u>
142 (95-N, 24-S)	31 (6-N, 1-S)	NC**
127 (70-N, 0-S)	85 (42-N, 19-S)	15 (1-N)
34 (26-N, 2-S)	31 (21-N, 2-S)	9 (2-N)
77 (26-N, 9-S)	49 (38-N, 3-S)	9 (1-N)
12 (4-N, 1-S)	21 (5-N, 6-S)	6 (4-S)
14 (Parked)	8 (8-N)	1 (1-S)
10 (5-N, 5-S)	NC**	NC**

* The first number in each entry is the total number of vehicles. Of these totals, the number of trucks moving north (N) or south (S) are noted in the parentheses after each total. The remainder of the vehicles detected were parked along the roadway.

** No coverage.

- b) [] 22 cargo vehicles were observed parked along Route 9 west of the Laos/South Vietnam border.

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- c) [] 27 cargo vehicles were observed on Route 9 west of the Laos/South Vietnam border (13 westbound, 2 eastbound, 12 parked).

8. There is additional evidence of the continuing movement within North Vietnam of military and other supplies probably destined for South Vietnam and southern Laos.

- a) On 21 May, the major NVA petroleum shipping facility located in Thanh Hoa Province received over 300 tons and dispatched over 600 tons of POL products.
- b) On 23 May, a major logistic unit operating south of Dong Hoi had 44 northbound and 39 southbound cargo vehicles pass through its area.
- c) On 24 May, a storage facility in the Vinh area received over 25 tons of mortar, machinegun and AAA ammunition.
- d) On 27 May, a storage facility located near Vinh dispatched 15 cargo vehicles carrying 37 tons of ordnance, primarily AAA ammunition and rocket rounds.

C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in South Vietnam Since the Ceasefire

9. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist-initiated ceasefire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 27 January and for the last week (25-31 May) are shown below:

Military Region	Total Since Ceasefire Level of Action		Last Week (25-31 May) Level of Action	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
MR 1	959	3,177	21	75
MR 2	227	1,689	7	59
MR 3	367	2,285	19	96
MR 4	593	5,552	28	266
Totals	2,146	12,703	75 (50) <u>1</u> /	496 (489) <u>1</u> /

1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

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10. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the ceasefire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the ceasefire.

11. The following is a chronological listing of only the most significant "major" Communist violations of the ceasefire in South Vietnam that were reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces during the past week.

MILITARY REGION 1

- a) No significant activity.

MILITARY REGION 2

- a) No significant activity.

MILITARY REGION 3

- a) On 28 May, ARVN Forces 5 miles southwest of Phuoc Vinh received a ground attack.
- b) On 31 May, enemy sappers destroyed some 3,700 tons of mixed ordnance in an ammunition storage depot five miles southeast of Bien Hoa.

MILITARY REGION 4

- a) On 25 May, a friendly unit 5 miles southwest of Quan Long received a ground attack.

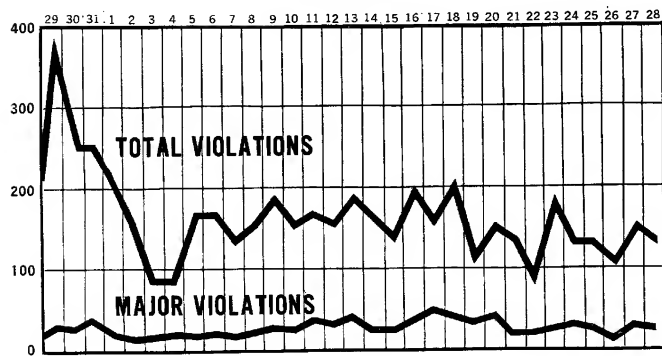
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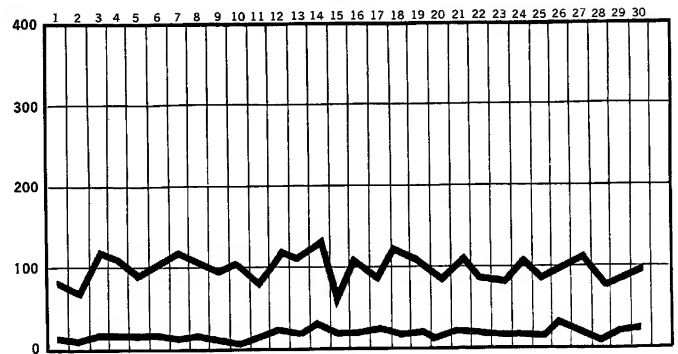
CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)

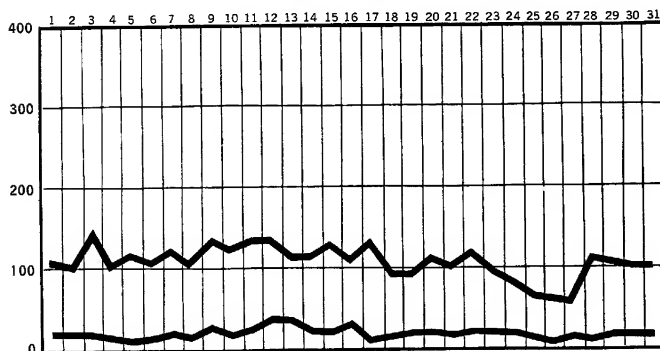
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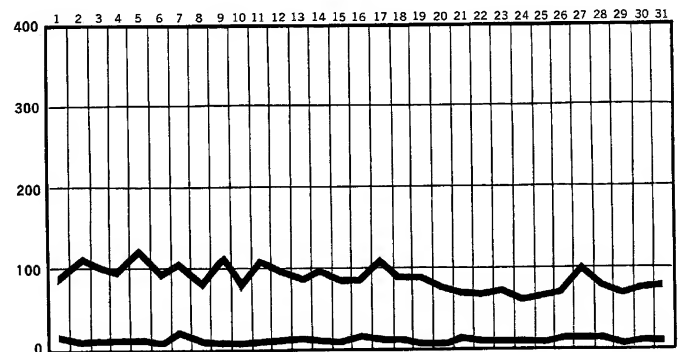
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- b) On 27 May, ARVN Forces 10 miles south of Vi Thanh received a ground attack.
- c) On 30 May, ARVN forces some 20 miles northeast of Soc Trang received a ground attack.

D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in Laos During the Week from 25 through 31 May

12. Twenty-five small combat incidents were reported in Laos during the period, but none were significant. A spate of minor incidents and a suspected Communist troop buildup in the San Soak area near the Khammouane/Xieng Khouang Province border have raised fears of a possible Communist attempt to eliminate this Royal Lao Government enclave. Over 350 civilians have evacuated the area. Another Communist troop buildup has been reported northwest of Ban Houei Sai in Houa Khong Province, where the Pathet Lao have been attempting to stem the flow of refugees from the Nam Yu area to Government-controlled territory along the Mekong River.

13. Communist forces have constructed a bamboo and barbed wire fence in an area 29 kilometers northeast of Khong Sedone in northern Military Region IV of Laos. The fence runs for a distance of six kilometers, and apparently was built to delineate the boundary of territory claimed by the Pathet Lao.

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ANNEX II

Post-Ceasefire Infiltration of North Vietnamese
Personnel to the South

1. During the past week, there were several references in Communications Intelligence to regular combat infiltration groups. On 27 May, Group 4014 with a strength of almost 700 troops was observed departing Vinh for the northern part of MR 1. Group 4015, destined for the same area, was detected farther south in the infiltration system in the Laotian Panhandle on 30 May. Both of these groups were previously gap-filled at 500 personnel each, and the higher actual strength of Group 4014 is chiefly responsible for raising our previous estimate of 24,000 infiltration starts since 27 January to 24,500. The average strength of the new infiltration groups observed since 12 May is higher than the normal 500-man size of groups detected in the recent past.

2. In addition to these groups, Group 7081 was observed in the Vinh area on 30 May destined for the B-5 Front. Although the strength of this group (68) and its designator suggest that it is not a regular infiltration group of combat replacement personnel, this possibility cannot be completely excluded. Five special-purpose groups with 33 personnel were also detected at Vinh during the past week.

3. The following table lists those infiltration groups which were reported for the first time during the past week.

Infiltration Groups Initially Reported
During the Past Week

<u>Group</u> <u>Designator</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date of</u> <u>Detection</u>
1 4014	696	North Vietnam	27 May
1 4015	500 ²	South Laos	30 May
7081	68	North Vietnam	30 May
QL 114	6	North Vietnam	28 May
QL 211B	13	North Vietnam	28 May
QL 331	4	North Vietnam	28 May
QL 444	2	North Vietnam	27 May
QL 472	8	North Vietnam	28 May

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1. Previously gap-filled with a strength of 500 personnel.
 2. Estimated strength.

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